Homeland Security

Graduate Program Head
L. Marvin Overby

Program Code
HLS

Campus(es)
World Campus (M.P.S.)

Degrees Conferred
Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S.)

The Graduate Faculty
View (https://secure.gradsch.psu.edu/gpms/?searchType=fac&prog=HLS)

The intercollege Master of Professional Studies in Homeland Security (MPS-HLS) degree program is designed to prepare professionals and develop leaders for the field of homeland security by providing exceptional graduate education that includes an integrated curriculum, expert faculty, and student interaction. The program is comprised of courses from several Penn State colleges and delivered via distance education through the Penn State World Campus to accommodate the needs and careers of professionals who are already active in homeland security and related fields of civil security, or those interested in transitioning into the field. The program provides select graduate students with an integrated, cross-disciplinary curriculum that is focused on a set of unified educational goals to help them understand and manage the complexities of homeland security in a global environment. Within the degree program and in addition to its common core curriculum, students choose one of seven specialization areas that represent main elements, capabilities, and risk-informed priorities of the homeland security mission space:

1. base program
2. agricultural biosecurity and food defense option;
3. counterterrorism option;
4. cyber threat analytics and prevention option;
5. intelligence and geospatial analysis option;
6. public health preparedness option; or
7. information security and forensics option.

The participating academic units for this collaborative program are: Penn State Harrisburg, the College of Medicine (in collaboration with the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center), the College of the Liberal Arts, the College of Information Sciences and Technology, the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences, the College of Agricultural Sciences, and Penn State Great Valley.

Admission Requirements
Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-admissions/how-to-apply/). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/).

Core Application Packet
• Completed online Graduate School application (http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/) and payment of nonrefundable application fee
• Statement of purpose
• Vita or résumé
• Three letters of recommendation

• Official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended (http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/new-applicants/requirements-for-graduate-admission/)

Statement of Purpose and Curriculum Vitae
A statement of professional experience and goals (up to 500 words) and the applicant’s vita or résumé must accompany the application.

Letters of Recommendation
• The individuals writing letters should be familiar with you and comfortable discussing your professional and/or academic strengths and accomplishments.
• The Admissions Committee prefers that all letters be written within the last six months and reference the applicant’s current career goals and/or ability to perform graduate level study.
• A person choosing to submit a letter of reference will do this through the online application system.
• A person choosing to submit a letter of reference may either select our pre-formatted template or upload their own letter.
• The program may waive letters of recommendation upon request from the applicant.

GPA Requirements
The applicant’s grade-point average is interpreted by the Admissions Committee in the context of a completed application.

Other Considerations
Special backgrounds, abilities, and interests related to homeland security are desirable.

Degree Requirements
Master of Professional Studies (M.P.S)
Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/).

The Master of Professional Studies in Homeland Security program requires a minimum of 33 credits, 24 of which must be earned at Penn State. Up to 10 graduate credits may be transferred in from a regionally accredited institution (subject to restrictions outlined in GCAC-309 Transfer Credit (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/transfer-credit/)); if the full 10 credits are transferred, the minimum total number of credits in the degree program will be 34. At least 18 credits must be courses at the 500 or 800 level, of which 6 credits must be in 500-level courses.

Students are expected to maintain a B (3.0) or better average in academic courses to be retained in the program. Graduate Council policy requires that students must have a GPA of 3.0 or above in order to graduate from the program.

Each student will take a 9-credit core curriculum consisting of HLS 801/PADM 801, HLS 803/PHIL 803, and HLS 805/PLSC 805, as well as a non-credit Orientation Course. Students will also take 12 credits of prescribed courses for the specialized option. There are 9 elective credits that are chosen from an approved list in consultation with the student’s academic adviser. The list of electives is maintained by the Base Program and Option Directors and is provided to the students in the respective specialization area. Finally, each degree candidate must complete a capstone project on a

**Time Limitation**

All degree requirements for the Master of Professional Studies in Homeland Security must be met within five years of admission to degree status.

**Prescribed Courses**

Homeland security refers to the unifying core for the vast global network of organizations and institutions that are involved in the efforts to secure society. Regardless of field of specialization, or chosen discipline for graduate study, all professionals in the program will participate in a Unifying Core Curriculum with the following educational goals and objectives:

- Understand major policies and legislation that shapes homeland security in a globalized society.
- Become familiar with organizations that play a key role in the implementation of homeland security policies and administration, and recognize the interactions among them.
- Understand the way in which a person or group responds to a set of conditions so as to prevent and respond to incidents and catastrophic events when needed.
- Recognize the impact that catastrophic events, both natural and man-made, have on society and the domestic and global economy.
- Identify and assess potential threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences.
- Apply leadership skills and principles that are necessary for producing and acting on information of value within a collaborative setting.
- Communicate effectively in the context of particular institutional cultures.
- Use, conduct, and interpret research and data effectively in decision-making.
- Practice ethics and integrity as a foundation for analytical debate and conclusion.
- Develop an appreciation of the cultural, social, psychological, political, and legal aspects of terrorism and counterterrorism.

The Core Curriculum consists of the following four courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLS 594</td>
<td>Research Topics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLS/PADM 801</td>
<td>Homeland Security Administration: Policies and Programs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLS/PHIL 803</td>
<td>Homeland Security: Social and Ethical Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLS/PLSC 805</td>
<td>Violence, Threats, Terror, and Insurgency</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Homeland Security (Base Program)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLS Orientation</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLS/PADM 801</td>
<td>Homeland Security Administration: Policies and Programs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLS/PHIL 803</td>
<td>Homeland Security: Social and Ethical Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HLS/PLSC 805</td>
<td>Violence, Threats, Terror, and Insurgency</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Prescribed Courses**

Choose 9 credits from an approved elective list in consultation with adviser. The list of electives is maintained by the Base Program Director and is provided to the students in the base program.

**Electives**

Choose 9 credits from an approved elective list in consultation with adviser. The list of electives is maintained by the Option Director and is provided to the students in the option.

**Capstone Experience**

**Total Credits**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGBIO 520</td>
<td>Agricultural Biosecurity: Protecting a Key Infrastructure</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGBIO 521</td>
<td>Food Defense: Prevention Planning for Food Processors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGBIO 801</td>
<td>Veterinary Infectious Disease Diagnostic and Surveillance Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGBIO 802</td>
<td>Plant Protection: Responding to Introductions of Threatening Pests and Pathogens</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Counterterrorism Option**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HLS/PLSC 805</td>
<td>Violence, Threats, Terror, and Insurgency</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Credits**

33

Listed below are the courses required/suggested for the Base Program and for the Options:

**Agricultural Biosecurity and Food Defense Option**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AGBIO 594</td>
<td>Agricultural Biosecurity and Food Defense Capstone Experience</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

Choose 9 credits from an approved elective list in consultation with adviser. The list of electives is maintained by the Option Director and is provided to the students in the option.
### Homeland Security: Social and Ethical Issues

**Required Courses**
- HLS/PHIL 803 Homeland Security: Social and Ethical Issues 3
- HLS/PLSC 805 Violence, Threats, Terror, and Insurgency 3

**Counterterrorism Option Prescribed Courses**
- PLSC 836 Root Causes of Terrorism 3
- PLSC 569 Counterterrorism 3
- PLSC 838 Tools and Analysis of Counterterrorism 3
- PLSC 837 Radicalization, Counter-Radicalization, and De-Radicalization 3

**Electives**
Choose 9 credits from an approved elective list in consultation with adviser. The list of electives is maintained by the Option Director and is provided to the students in the option. 9

**Capstone Experience**
- Electives
  - Choose 9 credits from an approved elective list in consultation with adviser. The list of electives is maintained by the Option Director and is provided to the students in the option. 9

### Information Security and Forensics Option

**Required Courses**
- HLS Orientation 0
- HLS/PADM 801 Homeland Security Administration: Policies and Programs 3
- HLS/PHIL 803 Homeland Security: Social and Ethical Issues 3
- HLS/PLSC 805 Violence, Threats, Terror, and Insurgency 3

**Information Security and Forensics Option Prescribed Courses**
- SWENG 545 Data Mining 3
- INSC 561 Web Security and Privacy 3
- INSC 846 Network and Predictive Analytics for Socio-Technical Systems 3
- IST 564 Crisis, Disaster and Risk Management 3
- INSC 831 Contemporary Information Systems Architecture 3

**Electives**
Choose 9 credits from an approved elective list in consultation with adviser. The list of electives is maintained by the Option Director and is provided to the students in the option. 9

**Capstone Experience**
- Electives
  - Choose 9 credits from an approved elective list in consultation with adviser. The list of electives is maintained by the Option Director and is provided to the students in the option. 9

### Public Health Preparedness Option

**Required Courses**
- HLS Orientation 0
- HLS/PADM 801 Homeland Security Administration: Policies and Programs 3
- HLS/PHIL 803 Homeland Security: Social and Ethical Issues 3
- HLS/PLSC 805 Violence, Threats, Terror, and Insurgency 3

**Public Health Preparedness Option Prescribed Courses**
- PHP 410 Public Health Preparedness for Disaster and Terrorist Emergencies I 3
- PHP 510 Public Health Preparedness for Disaster and Terrorist Emergencies II 3
- PHP 527 Public Health Evaluation of Disasters and Bioterrorism 3
- PHP 830 Critical Infrastructure Protection of Health Care Delivery Systems 3

**Electives**
Choose 9 credits from an approved elective list in consultation with adviser. The list of electives is maintained by the Option Director and is provided to the students in the option. 9

**Capstone Experience**
Minor

A graduate minor is available in any approved graduate major or dual-title program. The default requirements for a graduate minor are stated in Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-600 Research Degree Policies (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/) and GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/), depending on the type of degree the student is pursuing:

- GCAC-611 Minor - Research Doctorate (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/gcac-611-minor-research-doctorate/)
- GCAC-641 Minor - Research Master’s (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-600/gcac-641-minor-research-masters/)
- GCAC-709 Minor - Professional Doctorate (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-700/gcac-709-professional-doctoral-minor/)
- GCAC-741 Minor - Professional Master’s (https://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-700/gcac-741-masters-minor-professional/)

Student Aid

World Campus students in graduate degree programs may be eligible for financial aid. Refer to the Tuition and Financial Aid section (https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/tuition-and-financial-aid/) of the World Campus website for more information.

Courses

Graduate courses carry numbers from 500 to 699 and 800 to 899. Advanced undergraduate courses numbered between 400 and 499 may be used to meet some graduate degree requirements when taken by graduate students. Courses below the 400 level may not. A graduate student may register for or audit these courses in order to make up deficiencies or to fill in gaps in previous education but not to meet requirements for an advanced degree.

Homeland Security (HLS) Course List (https://bulletins.psu.edu/university-course-descriptions/graduate/hls/)

Note that the options in the Homeland Security graduate program have separate course lists.

Learning Outcomes

Graduates from the iMPS-HLS program will be able to...

1. SEARCH AND SYNTHESIZE literature to integrate homeland security principles into disciplines and professional fields.
2. INTEGRATE the use of disciplinary methods, techniques, and knowledge to solve practical problems.
3. IDENTIFY AND ASSESS potential threats, vulnerabilities, and consequences in a context from local to global environments.
4. EVALUATE scientific evidence and best practice to inform and improve real-world decisions.
5. PRACTICE ethics and integrity as a foundation for analytical debate and conclusion.
6. APPLY leadership skills and principles to produce and act on information in a collaborative setting.
7. COMMUNICATE the major issues of their discipline effectively to a diverse community of the Homeland Security Enterprise.

Contact

Campus
World Campus
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Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) or Professor-in-Charge (PIC)
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Program Contact
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(717) 948-6322

Program Website
View (https://www.worldcampus.psu.edu/degrees-and-certificates/homeland-security/overview/)

Option Directors
- Base Program: L. Marvin Overby
- Agricultural Biosecurity and Food Defense Option: Gretchen Kuldau
- Counterterrorism Option: Andrew Vitek
- Cyber Threat Analytics and Prevention Option: Robin Qiu
- Intelligence and Geospatial Analysis Option: Gregory Thomas
- Information Security and Forensics Option: Jeffrey Bardzell
- Public Health Preparedness Option: Eugene J. Lengerich